

is absolutely right that we should be concerned about what State law says. And State law should be the beginning and the end of the inquiry here.

You see, this is what is different between this vaccine mandate and others that have been mandated in the past. We have never seen one that is Federal—not applied to the American population as a whole, not as to the general public. We have never seen one done federally, and there are good reasons for this. It isn't a Federal beast.

So my friend from Washington has expressed concern for not trampling on those laws. She couldn't be more right in the fact that we should respect State sovereignty and the sovereignty of the people. That is all the more reason why we should have passed S. 2988 today.

S. 2988 is yet another example of a simple modification, that if—if we are going to go down this road of a Federal vaccine mandate—which we should not, but if we were going to, at bare minimum, we ought to be making this a decision that has to be done in consultation and with the approval of—not just the notice but also the consent of parents. That is not too much to ask.

The American people have been asked over and over again, especially over the last 18 months with the COVID-19 pandemic, they have been asked to settle. They have been asked to settle for this brooding omnipresence in Washington that tells them what to do. They have been asked to settle for multitrillion-dollar annual deficits. They have been asked to settle for limited freedoms.

The American people shouldn't have to settle for those things. They certainly shouldn't have to settle for a Federal Government acting without authority through one person who has the ability to take away one of the most sacred, one of the most fundamental, one of the most cherished God-given rights, which is the right to make decisions involving and uniquely affecting their own children.

For anyone within the sound of my voice or reading this, I implore you, don't settle—don't. Don't settle for multitrillion-dollar annual deficits. Expect Congress to start to care about the inflation that it is causing through reckless spending.

Don't settle for this brooding omnipresence of a Federal Government that is purporting to have the ability to dictate every aspect of your lives. No. Expect a government that operates within the space carved out by the Constitution. Don't settle for a government that knows no boundaries around its authority. Expect the government to respect its own limitations. It is time to expect more, and it is time to expect freedom.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana is recognized.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, the IRS should not have the right to spy on American bank accounts, period.

We all know the list of reasons why the Democrats' \$3.5 trillion tax-and-spend spree is a disaster. It will bury the American people in a mountain of debt, crushing inflation, and require new taxes. The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, nonpartisan, warns that this spree could exceed \$5 trillion in terms of the deficit.

But aside from the economic disaster of this tax-and-spending spree, the White House and congressional Democrats want to force banks to report details of every American's bank account to the IRS. This is nothing less than mass, indiscriminate government surveillance of Americans, giving IRS bureaucrats unfettered access to Americans' personal private finances, which is a gross invasion of privacy and an abuse of power.

Democrats said that this reporting requirement will only target the rich. But, according to the New York Times, the Biden administration's original plan was to have banks "provide data for accounts with total annual deposits or withdrawals worth more than \$600." That is \$600 over the course of a year.

I don't know if I can think of anyone other than maybe the 8-year-old child whose parents opens an account for them to have an account. No one else who has an account will have less than \$600 in transactions over the course of a year. This would lead to almost every American's financial banking information being transferred to the IRS, and this is what the Biden administration is advocating for.

If you are a small business owner, it will be as if you are spied upon. If you are a family looking to buy your first home, you will be as if spied upon. If you sell your neighbors some fishing rods, hey, the IRS is going to know about it. If you are a single working mom trying to take care of your children paying for daycare, they will know about it.

But now some are saying we will raise the cutoff to \$10,000. But that doesn't mean that they will limit their espionage, if you will, to transactions over \$10,000. No, this will say that anyone with more than \$10,000 transactions on an annual basis, cumulatively, out of a single bank account, that will have to be reported. And there is the rub. It changes almost nothing. Most Americans still fall within this category and will be caught within the surveillance scheme.

If you pay rent, you will be spied upon. If you buy a new car to drive your child safely to and from school, the IRS will know it. This is wrong. On top of a clear violation to our right to privacy, it is also just terrible policy. The reporting requirements in the \$3.5 trillion Democratic only, no Republicans, tax-and-spend spree will create an unreasonable burden on banks and credit unions to report and record massive amounts of debt.

Lastly, let's think about why this bill—reconciliation, Democrat-only play—why it wants keys to your bank

account. They need it to help spend for the \$3.5 trillion tax-and-spending spree—3.5 trillion, with a "t", dollars. They say they are only going to catch ultrawealthy tax cheats. That will be a good thing, but that is not what this legislation does. This legislation doesn't look at the ultrawealthy. It looks at all of us.

Now, no one wants people to cheat on their taxes. The people who are cheating should be caught. Republicans have always supported people paying the taxes they owe. What we oppose is a bill with not a single substantive committee hearing in the Senate, which will be pushed through on a strictly party-line vote, in which the American people's concerns about this level of surveillance of their bank accounts goes without comment and in which the bill directs the IRS to know details of almost every single American's bank account. That is what we object to.

Democrats are showing us the harm government can do when they don't care about citizens' privacy. They are showing their real priority. It is having an ability to look into our lives on a scale previously unimaginable. It is unacceptable, un-American, and should be opposed.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The Senator from Nevada.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

To the Secretary of the Senate:

PN807, the nomination of Jennifer Sung, of Oregon, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, having been referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee, with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows—

(1) on the question of reporting the nomination favorably with the recommendation that the nomination be confirmed, 10 ayes to 10 noes; and

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee has not reported the nomination because of a tie vote, and ask that this notice be printed in the Record pursuant to the resolution.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 60th anniversary of the National Reconnaissance Office, NRO.

Born in September 1961, the present day National Reconnaissance Office was formed by agreement between the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence during the height of the Cold War. In the first decade of the Cold War, American ingenuity and engineering had enabled significant advances to meet the demand for better reconnaissance as new, high-altitude aircraft like the U-2 and its high-speed successors, the A-12 and SR-71, were developed. However, even this new technology had its limitations. This became acutely clear with the shoot-down of CIA pilot Francis Gary Powers' U-2 in 1960. Thankfully, American aerospace engineers were also maturing new rocket and sensor technologies that enabled the United States to meet the increasing national security challenge of how to analyze Soviet forces to avert a nuclear war.

Carrying over from the Eisenhower to Kennedy administrations, a group of remarkable Americans brought the foresight of combining a number of government satellite efforts into a single U.S. intelligence organization that would become the modern NRO. These optical experts, chemists, physicists, engineers, military officers, mathematicians, and photography entrepreneurs recognized the value of a national policy of peacetime strategic reconnaissance in addressing the Soviet threat as well as future, unforeseen, national security challenges.

Assuming control of the previously initiated Corona photoreconnaissance program and following up with the Gambit, Hexagon, and signals intelligence programs, the NRO was able to supply the essential intelligence information needed to understand Soviet missile capabilities. The intelligence information the NRO provided to analysts and policymakers was critical in keeping nuclear tensions in check at the most tense points of the Cold War.

With the arms limitation treaties of the 1970s, the need for the verification of Soviet military capabilities posed a new challenge for policymakers. The scientists and engineers of the NRO would once again rise to the challenge by designing and building the Kennen digital imagery satellite and other unique overhead technological capabilities to respond to these daunting intelligence requirements.

In recent times, the capabilities of the NRO have been vital to helping us better understand and react to our Nation's toughest challenges, helping to see the unseen across the globe, from the hunt for Osama bin Laden and supporting counterterrorism operations around the globe, to helping us recover from natural disasters like hurricanes and wildfires here at home.

While this 60th anniversary is an appropriate time to celebrate the rich history and innovations of the NRO of the past, I think it is also important to recognize where the NRO is moving today and into the future and for the American people to understand why the NRO is so vital to our security.

Our colleagues on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and I have challenged the NRO to move faster in building and acquiring the next generation of space reconnaissance capabilities, including commercial technologies, as the great power competition with Russia and China takes shape.

NRO is rising to this challenge. Even as the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted so many parts of our society, economy, and supply chain, the NRO's workforce has stayed on task. In the last 18 months the NRO has not only maintained 100 percent of its mission capability, but the NRO also has had a record series of launches and payload deliveries into orbit, with 8 launches and 16 payloads in 2020 and 2021, including a launch from Wallops Island, in the Commonwealth of Virginia. I am also pleased to point out that the NRO also delivered its 12th consecutive clean financial audit during this pandemic period.

The NRO of today and tomorrow is growing its partnerships in both the private and public sectors. Within the Department of Defense, the NRO is partnering with the U.S. Space Force and U.S. Space Command to integrate national space operations with the combatant commander and Federal decision-maker requirements and to protect and defend our Nation's assets in space.

Likewise, the NRO is increasing engagement with allies, and particularly the Five Eyes nations, to better leverage capabilities and take advantage of new opportunities, such as the NRO's first satellite launch from an overseas location in 2020 from New Zealand. The NRO works side by side with intelligence community partners such as the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency to support the NSA's imagery analysis mission and the National Security Agency to support the NSA's analysis of signals and radio frequency signatures.

In the private sector arena, the NRO is building off a 60-year history of working with U.S. industry by embracing the benefits of the growing U.S. commercial space industry and delivering more capabilities at a lower cost to the taxpayers, taking advantage of a full range of services from commercial imagery and commercial cloud services to commercial launch.

Speeding innovation in anticipation of tomorrow's intelligence needs, the NRO is working with universities and research institutions across the Nation, looking for new ways to adapt existing capabilities and to bring online new technologies. The NRO is pushing the boundaries of advanced science and

technology for new phenomenology and applications that will improve and enhance the NRO's ability to provide policymakers and warfighters with advanced warning of events and provide critical insights into the capabilities and intentions of our adversaries.

None of this work could be done without the women and men of the NRO. The NRO workforce, a blend of military, civilian, and contract employees, is one of the most technical and highly skilled in the government. They are engineers, scientists, IT professionals, space system operators, and acquisition and program managers, with advanced degrees and a diversity of backgrounds and experiences. They are some of the best our Nation has to offer. They are the vital piece that makes the NRO not only a great place to work but makes the NRO the best place to work if you want to build the satellites, rockets, and ground systems that support our national security.

From the NRO pioneers to the workforce of today, the women and men of the NRO can always be counted on to stand true to their motto, "Supra Et Ultra," always going Above and Beyond. I offer my congratulations to the NRO on an exceptional 60 years, and I look forward to seeing how the NRO will lead us into the next 60 years of space reconnaissance.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING LAD N' LASSIE CHILDREN'S BOUTIQUE

• Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week, I recognize an outstanding Kentucky small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize a woman-owned small business, Lad n' Lassie Children's Boutique of Prestonsburg, KY, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1965, Dorothy Marshal founded Lad n' Lassie Children's Boutique. Noticing the lack of children's clothing retailers, Dorothy seized the opportunity to fill a gap in the local market. Over the next 32 years, Dorothy's boutique sold the finest children's clothing, shoes, and toys to her customers. She retired from Lad n' Lassie in 1997, selling the business to longtime family friend and Prestonsburg native, Cheryl Leslie.

In 2021, Lad n' Lassie Children's Boutique continues serving Floyd County. The store moved to a new location in downtown Prestonsburg in 1999, where it remains today. Under Cheryl's leadership, inventory expanded to include educational products and gifts. Lad n' Lassie supports small businesses, featuring locally and regionally made items. Customers are regularly greeted by name and treated like family. The store hosts community events, including workshops with visiting artists, and participates in downtown holiday